NFC issues

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planned for Nov 17.

Many responsibilities in the federal domain, including population, health, education, and other social sectors, were devolved to the provinces under the 18th Constitution Amendment in 2010.

Under Article 160(3) of the Constitution, "the share of the provinces in each award of NFC shall not be less than the share given to the provinces in the previous award".

At present, the provinces are entitled to more than a 57.5 per cent share of the federal divisible pool under the 7th NFC, in place since 2010, instead of the previous share of 47pc.

Powerful quarters have been advocating the reversal of the "imbalance" to meet rising debt and security expenditures.

Mr Aurangzeb, who called the joint press conference alongside select members of the economic team, comprising power, privatisation and information technology ministers as well as the secretary finance, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman and 'right-sizing specialist' Salman Ahmad to project economic reforms, said the country's direction had been towards sustainable and inclusive growth.

Retailers' contribution

FBR Chairman Rashid Mehmood Langrial ducked a question relating to additional income tax collection from retailers — a key theme of the government reform agenda under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme for expansion and deepening of the tax net. However, he said the country's tax-to-GDP ratio had increased by 1.49pc last year — a "historic achievement".

He said the total collection from retailers had increased from Rs82bn to Rs166bn. He continued that the bureau's income tax collection had increased by 102pc in one year.

The FBR chief said 0.71pc improvement in the tax-to-GDP ratio was achieved through new taxes and increasing existing tax rates among other measures, while 0.77pc gain was gained through better compliance.

This also included about 1.15pc of GDP worth of PDL, which he said was also considered a tax revenue. However, technically it is described as non-tax revenue.

Mr Langrial said the government and tax machinery was working on the target of tax-to-GDP ratio to 18pc by 2028 from 10.33pc, which includes provincial revenue and PDL, which is a 5.79 percentage point increase from 2025. Of this 18pc, the federal and provinces share would be 15 and 3pc, respectively.

He conceded that provincial tasks were more difficult than those of the Centre. He noted that data suggested an income tax gap of top 1pc income earners was Rs1.2 trillion at present. The total income tax gap, he added, stood at Rs1.7tr. Responding to a question, he said around 80pc of the Rs1.2tr gap would be filled by 2028.

Trade deficit

Mr Aurangzeb conceded that Pakistan's trade deficit had increased 9pc in the first quarter as exports went up by 8pc. He said the export growth should be greater, but maintained that it would be "unfair" to say exports had "collapsed".

"Remittances are providing us with a cushion. We expect remittances to hit $41-42 billion by the end of this fiscal year," he said, adding that ultimately the current account deficit at $0.5bn was "very manageable".

Power & privatisation

Power Minister Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said the government's top priority was to reduce electricity rates within our "tightened hands" as energy cost at Rs9.97 per unit was internationally competitive, but capacity payments due to devaluation of currency and high interest rate were a predicament.

"The government has the cut average power rates by Rs10.5 per unit and by Rs16 per unit for the industrial sector," he continued.

The minister said the government was aggressively rolling out automation in the power sector.

"The entire metering landscape will be overhauled to automatic metering and pre-paid billing."

Adviser to PM on Privatisation Muhammad Ali said the government remained committed to privatisation reforms "at the highest level".

"The Privatisation Commission is now working on taking as many transactions as possible," he added.

A BOY makes truck models at a shop in Dabgari Bazaar, Peshawar. — INP

Bajaur displaced complain of lack of facilities

BAJAUR: People displaced from various areas in Khar tehsil and Charmang valley due to the ongoing anti-terrorist operation on Monday complained that they had not been provided with accommodation, food and other facilities.

They told reporters that a large number of people from Lara Banda, Bara Banda, Janat Shah, Shagi, Dehili, Gooroand Gulo Kass in Khar tehsil and Sharif Khana, Shah Khani, Kootki and its surrounding areas in Charmang Valley of Nawagai tehsil fled their homes a week ago due to the ongoing anti-terrorist operation.

They, however, complained that they had yet to be provided with accommodation, food and other essential necessities by the government, to their misery.

"Among other residents, my family has also moved to safety after vacating homes but unfortunately, we have yet to get accommodation, food and other necessities," Irfan Khan of Janat Shah area told *Dawn*.

He noted that a lack of living arrangements and food from the government had forced most of the displaced persons to live with relatives or in rented homes in different localities of Khar tehsil since they left their areas.—Correspondent

Lawmakers seek role in decision making

KP Assembly continues discussion on law and order situation

By Umer Farooq

PESHAWAR: As the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday continued discussion on the law and order situation in the province, the lawmakers suggested that public representatives be taken on board by authorities before taking any decision to ensure lasting peace.

During the session chaired by Mohammad Idrees from the panel of chairmen, the MPAs said that people had mandated the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PT) to take decisions and rule the province.

Treasury lawmaker Malik Adeel Iqbal said any decision regarding the offensive against terrorists in the province should be taken in consultation with the elected political representatives.

"Our [people's elected representatives'] suggestions should be given priority in the decision-making process. No one else should tell us what to do in our province," he said.

Mr Iqbal said the residents, who faced terrorist attacks, would make decisions about the province. He said the powers-that-be neither accepted court orders nor did they take assembly resolutions seriously and even denied our Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi the chance to meet incarcerated PTI leader Imran Khan.

"If you are bent on refusing court orders and assembly resolutions, shut this house and build a mess here," he said.

Member of the opposition ANP Mohammad Nisar Baaz said the special house committee on security was discussing the law and order situation.

He said the military operation Sar Bakaf was launched in Bajaur tribal district against what they believed some 200 terrorists.Mr Baaz said terrorists moved from Loy Mamund to Wara Mamund three weeks ago, all the way to his constituency.

He said the security forces told people in his constituency to vacate the village as soon as possible and promised to clear the area from terrorists within three days. He, however, said the promise wasn't kept.

"Nobody is owning the security operation and not even the provincial government, to the suffering of residents," he said.

The opposition member said residents were sheltered in schools and were being given assistance from an NGO. He claimed that at least 11 people were martyred and over 30 injured in quadcopter military attacks against terrorists in the area.

"Though ours is the most terror-hit province, it is not taken on board about the Pak-Afghan peace negotiations in Istanbul," he said.

The lawmaker said all those issues could be resolved by politicians only. He said that he had shared his concerns with the parliamentary security committee and suggested that the federal and provincial governments collectively take decisions.

"I come from South Waziristan where multiple operations have been carried out against terrorists. My constituency witnessed a mayhem in the last 24 years," MPA Asif Mehsud said.

He said people had to flee his constituency in 2006 but the damaged properties had yet to be compensated. The member suggested that a commission be formed to probe who torched apple and walnut orchards after locals abandoned their homes and lived across the country.

He said that the security committee meeting was told that Rs4 billion has so far been spent in the recently launched security operation in Bajaur, with at least Rs10 billion more required to conclude the anti-terrorist offensive.

"At least Rs220 billion is required to clear terrorists from 22 districts which we will neither become part of nor allow. I cannot lie and will never defend all state policies," he said.

Mr Mehsud said the Constitution was being amended to target one person who had the people's support. He said that tribesmen should not be used to serve vested interests and that stronger policies were required to move forward since the country couldn't afford multiple fonts at a time.

PML-N lawmaker Sardar Shahjehan Yousaf said it was good to see all political parties holding discussions on a critical issue facing the province.

He said that the presence of members from all political parties in the house's security committee proved that the federal government was taking serious steps for peace in KP.

"Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif wants to work with CM Afridi for restoration of peace in our province," he said. The house approved a motion, moved by adviser to the chief minister Taj Mohammad Khan, for the holding of a peace jirga at the assembly.

It also passed a joint resolution, demanding of the provincial government to give four more months to candidates to prepare for the Provincial Management Service exams slated to be held after a gap of eight years. The resolution was tabled by MPA Abdul Karim.

Also, the assembly passed a resolution, calling for the protection of Pakistan's national fish, mahseer, in the province.

The resolution, moved by MPA Fatihul Mulk Nasir, read that mahseer faced extinction due to unregulated commercial fishing.

"Understanding that the national fish of any country deserves some kind of special or protective status, measures must be taken for mahseer in our province," it said.

The resolution said the house must ensure that all commercial fishing of mahseer be halted; the fishing be restricted to hook and line only, and special reserves be established.

Is this a rollback of 18th Amendment?

Continued from Page 1

return of education and population planning to the centre, and breaking the deadlock over the appointment of the chief election commissioner.

This has the potential to upend the political and administrative structure of the country.

Some social media handles with Sindhi origins are already abuzz with theories about a quid-pro-quo involving the formation of a PPP government in Azad Kashmir in exchange for the party's support.

The ruling PML-N has dangled many-a carrot in front of the PPP, most notably the setting up of a federal constitutional court – a longstanding PPP demand withdrawn during 26th Amendment negotiations only after the government agreed to set up a Constitutional Bench within the Supreme Court.

While Mr Bhutto-Zardari stated in his tweet that his party's central executive committee (CEC) will meet on Thursday to discuss whether to support the amendment's passage, early signs suggest the decision will not be easy.

His party risks losing legitimacy and public support, especially in its Sindh stronghold. Sindhi nationalists, civil society activists and intellectuals will strongly oppose the likely reversal of protection for the provinces' share in the NFC and the return of two important departments to the federal government.

"This is a complete rollback of the 18th Amendment," notes a PPP leader from Sindh on condition of anonymity.

"Once the constitutional safeguard ensuring the provinces' share from the NFC is revoked, we'll be back to square one. This safeguard was introduced precisely to prevent any future dictator or even a democratic government from arbitrarily cutting the provincial share."

He adds that of the 17 ministries devolved, several have already found their way back to the federal government. "For instance, agriculture was devolved, but the centre later created the Ministry of Food Security to retain control."

Autonomy conundrum

Most political analysts don't see the PPP rejecting the proposed amendments entirely. Senior analyst Suhail Warraich, considered close to top PPP leadership, doesn't see the party compromising on the NFC or 18th Amendment. "Provincial autonomy has always been central to their politics. That's why it was part of the MRD's agenda and later an important element of the Charter of Democracy." He believes the party will likely agree on the constitutional court and changes to Article 243, but "the NFC and 18th Amendment will be their red line."

Political commentator Badar Alam believes the PPP would be committing virtual political suicide if it rolls back provincial autonomy. "The party will lose its political relevance if it surrenders on the NFC Award and agrees to transfer education and population — two key pillars of provincial autonomy — back to the centre," he says. "If a similar approach is taken on the NFC, it will only strengthen nationalist forces in Sindh."

On the proposed constitutional court, Mr Alam notes that while the idea is sound in principle, "if implemented at this stage, it will likely be viewed as an attempt to curb the judiciary's powers. Besides, since we already have a constitutional bench in the Supreme Court, the likelihood of frequent jurisdictional disputes between the two bodies would be quite high."

Economic implications

Changes in the NFC have long been part of the IMF and World Bank's agenda. The framework has been effectively undermined by forcing provinces to produce budget surpluses at the cost of development and public welfare. The federal government has also resorted to indirect taxation on petroleum, gas and other items to bypass the current NFC arrangement.

Economist Waqar Wadho, who teaches at the Lahore School of Economics, says that since the 7th NFC Award, the federal government has been trying to increase its revenues. "Because it cannot do so through the divisible pool owing to the constitutional safeguard for the provinces, it has resorted to indirect taxation like the imposition of various levies."

However, even these additional revenues are insufficient. "A major portion of federal income is consumed by defence-related spending and interest payments," Mr Wadho notes. "Now, the goal appears to be to boost revenues through the divisible pool itself by legally increasing the federal share. But the levies already imposed are likely to remain in place even after the federal share is raised."

Mr Wadho argues that a reduced provincial share will directly impact service delivery. "Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have invested heavily in healthcare. If their share from the NFC is cut, such initiatives will inevitably suffer." KP and Balochistan will be far worse off, though "Punjab and Sindh might still manage somewhat better due to their larger revenue base."

Speaking on the PPP's political calculus, Mr Wadho says the party is in a tough position. "It wants to project Bilawal Bhutto as a prime ministerial candidate and revive the party in Punjab. For both goals, it needs the goodwill of federal institutions, especially the army." Yet the party depends on retaining Sindh as its power base. "Supporting the proposed amendment would have serious repercussions for the PPP there. The party will struggle to justify backing the 27th Amendment."

Mr Wadho insists that Mr Bhutto-Zardari has the chance to resist if he can think beyond the next government. "But with Mr Zardari still calling some of the shots, the party may instead look for cosmetic adjustments to soften the blow."

Legal hurdles

Outside Sindh, the proposed amendment is likely to ignite opposition from lawyers, who will not take changes in the higher judiciary lying down. The government's timing — coming right after government-backed lawyers appear to be leading in bar council elections — suggests awareness of this risk. The government believes its allies in the bar council will help alleviate resistance.

Constitutional expert Salahuddin Ahmed argues that the proposed changes are mostly meant to "control the streets" through revival of executive magistracy, sideline the opposition in selecting the chief election commissioner, and manage maverick judges through transfers. "In short, it'll be a slide into fascism brought in by parliament itself," he concludes.

A detailed version of this article can be accessed on Dawn.com

Five policemen injured in Bannu ambush

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: Five policemen were injured when terrorists attacked the North Waziristan district police officer's vehicle in Bannu on Monday.

A police official said that the terrorists ambushed the North Waziristan DPO Waqar Khan's vehicle along with his escort squad near a flour mill on the Miramshah Road when he was coming to Bannu to attend an official meeting at the regional police office.

He said that five policemen were injured in the sudden attack, which also triggered a fierce gun battle.

"Several assailants were also killed in the gunfight while their accomplices managed to flee the place," the official claimed, saying that the police did not suffer major casualties in the ambush as the vehicles of the district police chief and his escort were bulletproof.

He said that the injured cops included Rasool Mohammad, Maghfirullah, Sher Ahmad, Hashim Khan and Syed Mohammad and they were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

After the attack, a large police contingent reached the area and launched a search for the fleeing terrorists.

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/ Time
PD/O&M/ PT/31763/ 25	Internal protective coating application in heat exchanger shell of MEA secondary cooler	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/D&CE/ PT/31846/ 25	Coiled tubing & associated services on call out basis	20 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/IDP/ PT/32008/ 25	Services to operate and manage computer training center cum library, Sui	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/GEN/ PT/32041/ 25	Supply of miscellaneous electrical items	20 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/GEN/ PT/32043/ 25	Supply of S.S. fittings with MTC	20 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/IDP/ PT/32046/ 25	Data center maintenance and support services for APC and other than APC equipment	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/O&M/ PT/32048/ 25	Internal bottom dish end coating & cold rebuilding of intermediate & discharge knock out drums	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/O&M/ PT/32049/ 25	Supply of pipes and fittings on FOR/ DDP basis	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.
PD/IDP/ PT/32059/ 25	Procurement of tape library	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.

Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Date

Closing and opening date of the following tender has been extended as follows:

Tender No.	Description	Published On	Revised Closing Date/ Time
PD/P&C/ PT/31760/ 25	Supply of radio communication equipment	09 Oct, 2025	24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs.

Bidders who have already submitted/sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and resubmit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the revised bids closing date/ time.

Tender notice / detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at **www.ppra.org.pk** Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through PPL's e-procurement portal at **https://eprocurement.ppl.com.pk** for details see 'Instruction for Bidders Section' of tender documents. PPL reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.

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THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-ARIBA Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules;

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-300501661-2025	CONSTRUCTION OF WASHROOMS AT PASAKHI	19.11.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-298409546-2025	CONSTRUCTION OF BATH TOILET, OFFICES AND REPAIR OF TANKS DYKE WALLS AT MELA, KOHAT	20.11.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-300036322-2025	CONSTRUCTION OF ROOM, VERANDA, ATTACH BATH, SEPTIC TANK, WATCH TOWER AND INSTALLATION OF MESH FENCE WITH TOE WALL AT DHOK HUSSAIN, KOHAT	21.11.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
4.	OGDCL-SCM-LC-PT-PNP-QP-OIL FILTERS-301306830-2025	PROCUREMENT OF OIL FILTERS	21.11.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
5.	OGDCL-SCM-LBI-PT-CESS-301356397-2025	EARTH BACKFILLING OF ADDITIONAL PIT AND OLD FLARE PIT AT WELL DARS NO 1	24.11.2025 AT 1130 Hrs

EXTENSION IN BID CLOSING & OPENING DATE

2. Reference our Tender Notice published in newspaper(s) on **07.10.2025,** it is notified that the bid submission/opening date of the following case (s) has been extended as follows:

SR #	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	REVISED CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-RM-299419833-2025	HIRING OF SERVICES FOR INSPECTION AND REFURBISHMENT OF OGDCL DRILLING RIG N-1	25.11.2025 AT 1030 HRS

3. Bidders who have already submitted/ sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and re-submit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.
4. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
5. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at **www.ppra.org.pk.**
6. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at **https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders** or **discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621** for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
7. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

General Manager
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